F.M. radio on long distance trains

424. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibility of introducing F.M. radio on various long distance trains, alongwith music, etc. already being relayed, in order to improve recreational standards for passengers;

(b) if so, by when such arrangement is likely to be put in place in all the long distance trains, subject to feasibility; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Railways have, however, conducted joint trails with All India Radio (AIR) for extention of Direct to Home (DTH) Radio Channels launched by AIR, for passenger, on one Rajdhani Express Train. Further decision on extention of the service on other Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains will be taken after receipt of the report of the trials.

Creation of East Central Railway Zone

425. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to create a new East Central Railway Zone, with Headquarters at Hazipur, by carving out some divisions from the Eastern Railway Zone; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted in creating this new zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) In 1996, the Government had decided to create East Central Railway Zone, Hajipur. This Zone is now being made functional *w.e.f.* 1.10.2002. Its jurisdiction will include Samastipur, Sonpur Divisions of North Eastern Railway and Dhanbad, Mughalsarai and Danapur Divisions of Eastern Railway.

New Zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern, operating and administrative requirements

consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and not on regional considerations.

Jurisdiction of New Railway Zones

426. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Board has decided to establish two new Zonal Railways and to redraw the jurisdiction of five more new zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the amount of investment involved in the move;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this step has been opposed by all the senior officials, the employees unions of the affected Railways and by the professional consultant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Not only two, but seven new zones are being established out of the existing zones. As a result thereof, the jurisdictions of all the Zonal Railways, except North-east Frontier Railway, are being redrawn.

(b) The details of jurisdictions zone-wise and their dates of operationalisation are given as under:

Sl. No.	Railway	Area of Jurisdiction	Date of operationalisation
1.	East Central Railway, Hajipur	• Sonpur and Samastipur Divisions of North Eastern Railway.	01.10.2002
	Notified on 14.06.2002	• Danapur, Mughalsarai and Dhanbad Divisions of Eastern Railway.	
	North Western Railway, Jaipur	• Bikaner and Jodhpur Divisions of Northern Railway.	01.10.2002